IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A   <u>processor   implemented</u> method of forming distribution content that includes a data module, the data module including a script, said method comprising:

<u>scanning the script to detect a plurality of character strings that each match predetermined criteria;</u>

<u>sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the script;</u>

<u>associating, for each one of the plurality of character strings, that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings;</u>

searching the script for a given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character strings; and

replacing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character strings with a̶ <u>the specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> that is associated with the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u>, the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> having fewer characters than the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u>.

2.   (currently amended) A   <u>processor   implemented</u> method according to claim 1, further comprising:

temporarily storing the distribution content after carrying out said replacing step, and then distributing the content.

3.   (currently amended) A   <u>processor   implemented</u> method according to claim 1, wherein the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> is a function name or a variable name.

4.   (currently amended) A   <u>processor   implemented</u> method according to claim 2̶6̶<u>1</u>, further comprising:

determining whether the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> is a system reserved word, and when the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> is a system reserved word, replacing the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> with a further <u>one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> prior to carrying out said associating step.

5.   (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim 1, further comprising:

searching the script for a further <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> that does not affect execution of the script; and deleting the further <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> from the script.

6.   (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim 5, wherein the further <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> is a comment string preceded by a predetermined delimiter.

7.   (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim 2̶6̶<u>1</u>, wherein ~~said determining step includes scanning the script to detect a plurality of character strings that each match the predetermined criteria, said method further comprising: sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the script, and~~said ~~associating step including, for each one of the plurality of character strings, associating that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings, whereby~~ when ~~a~~ <u>the</u> given one of the plurality of character strings has a greater appearance frequency than another one of the plurality of character strings, the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> <u>that is</u> associated with the given one of the plurality

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of character strings has a same or smaller number of characters than the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute characters or character strings <u>that is</u> associated with the another one of the plurality of character strings.

8. (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method of distributing content that includes a plurality of data modules, at least one of the plurality of modules including a script, said method comprising:

<u>scanning the script of the at least one data module to detect a plurality of character strings that each match predetermined criteria;</u>

<u>sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the script;</u>

<u>associating, for each one of the plurality of character strings, that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings;</u>

searching the script of the <u>at least one</u> data module for a given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u>;

replacing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> with a̶ <u>the specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> that is associated with the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u>, the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character string<u>s</u> having fewer characters than the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u>;

storing the <u>at least one</u> data module after carrying out said replacing step; and

distributing the stored data module.

9. (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim 8, wherein the given <u>one of the</u>

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plurality of character strings is a function name or a variable name.

10. (currently amended) A processor implemented method according to claim 2̶8̶8, further comprising:

determining whether the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings is a system reserved word, and when the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings is a system reserved word, replacing the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings with a further one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings prior to carrying out said associating step.

11. (currently amended) A processor implemented method according to claim 8, further comprising:

searching the script for a further one of the plurality of character strings that does not affect execution of the script; and deleting the further one of the plurality of character strings from the script.

12. (currently amended) A processor implemented method according to claim 11, wherein the further one of the plurality of character strings is a comment string preceded by a predetermined delimiter.

13. (currently amended) A processor implemented method according to claim 2̶8̶8, wherein s̶a̶i̶d̶ d̶e̶t̶e̶r̶m̶i̶n̶i̶n̶g̶ s̶t̶e̶p̶ i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ s̶c̶a̶n̶n̶i̶n̶g̶ t̶h̶e̶ s̶c̶r̶i̶p̶t̶ t̶o̶ d̶e̶t̶e̶c̶t̶ a̶ p̶l̶u̶r̶a̶l̶i̶t̶y̶ o̶f̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶ s̶t̶r̶i̶n̶g̶s̶ t̶h̶a̶t̶ e̶a̶c̶h̶ m̶a̶t̶c̶h̶ t̶h̶e̶ p̶r̶e̶d̶e̶t̶e̶r̶m̶i̶n̶e̶d̶ c̶r̶i̶t̶e̶r̶i̶a̶,̶ s̶a̶i̶d̶ m̶e̶t̶h̶o̶d̶ f̶u̶r̶t̶h̶e̶r̶ c̶o̶m̶p̶r̶i̶s̶i̶n̶g̶:̶ s̶o̶r̶t̶i̶n̶g̶ t̶h̶e̶ p̶l̶u̶r̶a̶l̶i̶t̶y̶ o̶f̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶ s̶t̶r̶i̶n̶g̶s̶ i̶n̶ o̶r̶d̶e̶r̶ o̶f̶ t̶h̶e̶i̶r̶ a̶p̶p̶e̶a̶r̶a̶n̶c̶e̶ f̶r̶e̶q̶u̶e̶n̶c̶y̶ i̶n̶ t̶h̶e̶ s̶c̶r̶i̶p̶t̶,̶ a̶n̶d̶s̶a̶i̶d̶ a̶s̶s̶o̶c̶i̶a̶t̶i̶n̶g̶ s̶t̶e̶p̶ i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶i̶n̶g̶,̶ f̶o̶r̶ e̶a̶c̶h̶ o̶n̶e̶ o̶f̶ t̶h̶e̶ p̶l̶u̶r̶a̶l̶i̶t̶y̶ o̶f̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶ s̶t̶r̶i̶n̶g̶s̶,̶ a̶s̶s̶o̶c̶i̶a̶t̶i̶n̶g̶ t̶h̶a̶t̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶ s̶t̶r̶i̶n̶g̶ w̶i̶t̶h̶ a̶ s̶p̶e̶c̶i̶f̶i̶c̶ o̶n̶e̶ o̶f̶ a̶ p̶l̶u̶r̶a̶l̶i̶t̶y̶ o̶f̶ s̶u̶b̶s̶t̶i̶t̶u̶t̶e̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶s̶ o̶r̶ c̶h̶a̶r̶a̶c̶t̶e̶r̶ s̶t̶r̶i̶n̶g̶s̶,̶ w̶h̶e̶r̶e̶b̶y̶ when a̶ the given one of the plurality

of character strings has a greater appearance frequency than another one of the plurality of character strings, the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings has a same or smaller number of characters than the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the another one of the plurality of character strings.

14.   (currently amended) An apparatus for distributing content that includes a plurality of data modules, at least one of the plurality of modules including a script, said apparatus comprising:

means for scanning the script to detect a plurality of character strings that each match predetermined criteria;

means for sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the script;

means for associating, for each one of the plurality of character strings, that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings;

means for searching the script of the at least one data module for a given one of the plurality of character strings;

means for replacing the given one of the plurality of character strings with a the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings, the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings having fewer characters than the given one of the plurality of character strings;

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means for storing the at least one data module after replacing the given one of the plurality of character strings with the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings; and

means for distributing the stored data module.

15. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the given one of the plurality of character strings is a function name or a variable name.

16. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 3014, further comprising:

means for determining whether the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings is a system reserved word, and when the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings is a system reserved word, for replacing the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings with a further one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings prior to being associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

means for searching the script for a further one of the plurality of character strings that does not affect execution of the script; and

means for deleting the further one of the plurality of character strings from the script.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the further one of the plurality of character strings is a comment string preceded by a predetermined delimiter.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 3014, wherein said means for determining includes means for scanning the script to detect a plurality of character

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~~strings that each match the predetermined criteria, said apparatus further comprising:means for sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the script, andsaid means for associating including, for each one of the plurality of character strings, means for associating that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings, whereby~~ when ~~a~~ the given one of the plurality of character strings has a greater appearance frequency than another one of the plurality of character strings, the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings has a same or smaller number of characters than the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the another one of the plurality of character strings.

20. (currently amended) A processor implemented method of reducing the size of source code, said method comprising:

scanning the source code to detect a plurality of character strings that each match predetermined criteria;

sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the source code;

associating, for each one of the plurality of character strings, that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings;

searching the source code for a given one of the plurality of character strings; and

replacing the given one of the plurality of character strings with ~~a~~ the specific one of the plurality of substitute characters or character strings that is associated with the given one of the plurality of character

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strings, the _specific one of the plurality of_ substitute characters or character string_s_ having fewer characters than the given _one of the plurality of_ character string_s_.

21. (currently amended) A _processor implemented_ method according to claim 20, wherein the given _one of the plurality of_ character string_s_ is a function name or a variable name.

22. (currently amended) A _processor implemented_ method according to claim ~~32~~20, further comprising:

determining whether the _specific one of the plurality of_ substitute character_s_ or character string_s_ is a system reserved word, and when the _specific one of the plurality of_ substitute character_s_ or character string_s_ is a system reserved word, replacing the _specific one of the plurality of_ substitute character_s_ or character string_s_ with a further _one of the plurality of_ substitute character_s_ or character string_s_ prior to carrying out said associating step.

23. (currently amended) A _processor implemented_ method according to claim 20, further comprising:

searching the source code for a further _one of the plurality of_ character string_s_ that does not affect execution of the source code; and

deleting the further _one of the plurality of_ character string_s_.

24. (currently amended) A _processor implemented_ method according to claim 23, wherein the further _one of the plurality of_ character string_s_ is a comment string preceded by a predetermined delimiter.

25. (currently amended) A _processor implemented_ method according to claim ~~32~~20, wherein ~~said determining step includes scanning the source code to detect a plurality of character strings that each match the predetermined criteria,~~

~~said method further comprising: sorting the plurality of character strings in order of their appearance frequency in the source code, and~~said associating step including, for each one of the plurality of character strings, associating that character string with a specific one of a plurality of substitute characters or character strings, ~~whereby~~ when ~~a~~ the given one of the plurality of character strings has a greater appearance frequency than another one of the plurality of character strings, the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute <u>characters</u> or character <u>strings</u> <u>that is</u> associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings has a same or smaller number of characters than the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute <u>characters</u> or character <u>strings</u> <u>that is</u> associated with the another one of the plurality of character strings.

26.   (cancelled)

27.   (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim ~~26~~<u>1</u>, further comprising:

storing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character <u>strings</u> and the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute <u>characters</u> or character <u>strings</u> <u>associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings</u> in a correspondence table.

28.   (cancelled)

29.   (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim ~~28~~<u>8</u>, further comprising:

storing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character <u>strings</u> and the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute <u>characters</u> or character <u>strings</u> <u>associated with the given one of</u> <u>the plurality of character strings</u> in a correspondence table.

30.   (cancelled)

31.   (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~30~~<u>14</u>, further comprising:

means for storing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> and the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character strings <u>associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings</u> in a correspondence table.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) A <u>processor implemented</u> method according to claim ~~32~~<u>20</u>, further comprising:

storing the given <u>one of the plurality of</u> character string<u>s</u> and the <u>specific one of the plurality of</u> substitute character<u>s</u> or character strings <u>associated with the given one of the plurality of character strings</u> in a correspondence table.